

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 07063 121141Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7291

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 7063

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, TECH, ENRG, BR

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM: JOINT TECHNICAL SUBGROUPS

REF: STATE 191053

1. BRAZILIAN DIPLOMAT (PEDRO MOTTA PINTO COELHO, SCIENCE AFFAIRS, BRAZILIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON) WHO IS ATTENDING SPECIAL FOREIGN MINISTRY/CNPQ COURSE ON GOB SCIENCE POLICY FOR GROUP OF SCIENCE AFFAIRS OFFICERS FROM 15-20 MOST IMPORTANT BRAZILIAN EMBASSIES IN WORLD, MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ON FOREIGN MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE POLICY TO SCICOUN:

(A) DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION OF US/BRAZIL SCIENCE COOPERATION HAS THE HIGHEST PRESENT SCIENCE PRIORITY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, BASED ON ITS VIEW THAT SCIENCE COOPERATION WITH THE OTHER ADVANCED COUNTRIES IS IN RELATIVELY MUCH BETTER SHAPE.

(B) THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BELIEVES THAT FUTURE US/BRAZIL NUCLEAR COOPERATION POLICY WILL HAVE A VERY STRONG INFLUENCE ON NON-NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION AND GENERAL S&T COOPERATION. FOREIGN MINISTRY APPARENTLY HOLDS VIEW THAT COOPERATION IN LATTER TWO AREAS WILL BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, IF USG AND
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PAGE 02 BRASIL 07063 121141Z

GOB CANNOT REACH MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON TERMS OF FUTURE

NUCLEAR COOPERATION AND PROVISION OF CERTAIN ITEMS
(E.G., NUCLEAR FUEL) TO BRAZIL. IN THIS VIEW, NEXT
ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS ON AGREEMENT FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION
IS MORE CRUCIAL TO FUTURE OF US/BRAZIL SCIENCE RELATION
THAN FIRST MEETINGS OF SUBJECT SUBGROUPS.

2. COMMENT: ALLEGED FOREIGN MINISTRY POSITION APPEARS
TO REFLECT JUDGEMENT THAT NON-NUCLEAR S&T COOPERATION
WITH BRAZIL IS MORE IMPORTANT IN US POLICY THAN EMBASSY
BELIEVES TO BE THE CASE. JUDGEMENT PROBABLY INFLUENCED
BY FACT FORMIN IS CHANNEL FOR FREQUENT REQUESTS FOR
APPROVAL OF USG-SPONSORED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN BRAZIL
OR ADJACENT OCEAN. SINCE EMBASSY IS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT
US/BRAZIL NUCLEAR RELATIONS, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO DISENCHANT
FORMIN AND REST OF GOB FROM OVERESTIMATING IMPORTANT OR
IMPROVED S&T COOPERATION TO USG AND FROM COUPLING OF NUCLEAR
AND NON-NUCLEAR S&T COOPERATION.
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